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GOVERNOR MAPP JOINS EFFORTS WITH HOMELAND SECURITY FOR “VI CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE”

(July 10, 2015 St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands) Governor Kenneth E Mapp met with Homeland Security officials on Thursday. Together, the Governor and the team from ICE cited the need for a territory-wide approach to fighting the escalation of child exploitation and other predatory crimes against children, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in St. Thomas and St. Croix has partnered with members of local, state and federal law enforcement, and community leaders, to form the U.S. Virgin Islands Crimes Against Children Task Force (VICTACTF).

Through the VICTACTF, federal and local law enforcement agencies will pool their resources to jointly investigate all crimes committed against children in the USVI. Task Force members will be encouraged to share evidence, ideas and investigative and forensic tools to ensure the most successful prosecutions possible. As such, the VICTACTF will allow law enforcement to speak with a unified voice to defend the children of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The VICTACTF is composed of the following agencies: ICE-HSI (lead agency), U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Marshals Service, the Virgin Islands Police Department, the Virgin Islands Department of Justice-Office of the Attorney General, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services and the Family Resource Center.

“I am extremely encouraged by the level of cooperation that we are receiving from federal law enforcement. Protection of our Virgin Islands’ children and the further enabling of our police department’s ability to do so, is of utmost importance to the Lt. Governor and myself.” Said Mapp in response to the establishing of the New Task force.